

# the "EYE"

## Lincoln Neighborhood Watch

Fall/Winter 2008-2009

### NUISANCE SIGNS

*"Sign Sign everywhere a sign  
Blocking out the scenery breaking my mind  
Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign"*

The political climate in 1970 contributed to the Five Man Electrical Band singing about the increasing number of signs telling people what they could/should/couldn't /shouldn't do. Their metaphor is still applicable today but we're going to twist it into the more literal sense of signs everywhere. Most of us have pulled up to an intersection and had to creep ahead to see around the posters and signs on the corner utility pole. Or, on the same corner, a garage sale sign stuck in the ground in the curb-to-sidewalk space. Often the people posting these signs do not return to take them down and they are left indefinitely.

Citizen complaints come in regarding signs attached to utility poles and in the public right of way. City ordinance has addressed this issue for years but these rules are generally ignored. These are not priority-status calls for service but, when dispatched, an officer will respond as time allows. We do not want to discourage anyone from calling the police if they perceive a violation but in these instances we could use your assistance in eliminating this minor problem. The simplest way you can help is by not participating in putting signs or notices on the public right of way.



Lincoln Municipal Ordinances regarding signs are:

#### **22.05.170 Temporary Signs....**

*(g) Signs on vehicles which are parked for the primary purpose of being a sign, shall not be permitted.*

*(h) Temporary garage sale signs shall be securely anchored into the ground and shall not be located within the public right-of-way.*

#### **8.22.170 Posting Notices Prohibited.**

*No person shall post or affix any notice, poster, or other paper or device, calculated to attract the attention of the public to any lamp post, public utility pole, or shade tree, or upon any public structure or building, except as may be authorized or required by law.*

#### **10.32.330 Parking Vehicles Displayed for Sale.**

*It shall be unlawful for any person to park upon any street, alley, public way, or parking facility or other public place within the city any vehicle displayed for sale.*

### **CITIZENS DRIVER LICENSE STATUS AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

Nebraska drivers can now check their driving status on the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) website:

<https://www.nebraska.gov/dmv/reinstatements/client.cgi>

If you enter your name, birth date and social security number -or- your Operators License Number (OLN), it will tell you 24/7 whether you are currently valid and even the number of points currently assessed against you.

So if you need to check your driver status – particularly during non-business hours - access exists!

## PERSONAL SAFETY– ROBBERY

Robbery is defined as the act of taking property of value from a person by force or by placing them in fear. It is a violent crime directed specifically toward a person as opposed to a crime against property such as a burglary or vandalism. Reported robberies have increased by 32.9% compared to this same time last year (125 in '07 and 170 through September '08). People often think of these crimes as those occurring at the convenience stores, banks or other businesses that handle cash. Part of the increase though appears to be the incidents where the robber is confronting someone on the street or at their home. Motives for these crimes vary and while some can be attributed to both the robber's and the victim's life styles there are several others that appear to be completely random incidents where there is no association between the assailant and victim. The following lists contain several suggestions of ways you can keep from being a victim of this crime. Remember too that no item of value or amount of money is worth risking injury or your life!

### While at home:

- ♦ Use a deadbolt lock.
- ♦ If someone is at the door use the peephole or check through a window to see who is there.
- ♦ If you suspect your home has been broken into, don't go in! Call the police from another location.



### While out and about:

- ♦ Be aware of your surroundings.
- ♦ At night, try to stay on well lit streets, avoid shadows and other potential hiding places.
- ♦ Use the buddy system.
- ♦ Wallets should be carried in an inside or front pocket- do not reveal your cash.
- ♦ Carry your purse close to your body- do not let it hang or dangle.
- ♦ Do not wrap the strap around your wrist or arm- You could be injured if the purse is grabbed.
- ♦ Let the purse go if it is grabbed.
- ♦ Avoid carrying too much cash in your wallet or your purse.
- ♦ Be cautious at ATMs when using PINs or getting cash.

### While in your car:

- ♦ Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up.
- ♦ Look for well lighted parking places and lock your car.
- ♦ When approaching your car, look for anything that appears out of place.
- ♦ If someone is loitering near or your car appears to have been broken into, return to your building and call the police.
- ♦ Before getting into your car, check the back seat and the floor.
- ♦ If you are being followed: Don't drive home- go to a 24 hour business where there will be other people and honk the horn until you get attention.
- ♦ If someone tries to break into your car honk your horn.
- ♦ If you are being dropped off from a friend's car, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.
- ♦ Defensive measures:
  - ♦ If assaulted, make noise! Draw as much attention as possible to what is happening.
  - ♦ Resist if possible. This has to be a personal decision based on the circumstances and your own level of skill or training.
  - ♦ Fire Arms are not recommended. Their use requires training and skill. Often a weapon can be taken away and used against the victim
  - ♦ Pepper spray is effective but you must be familiar with the product you are using.
  - ♦ Cellular phones are the best but you have to know where you are at to tell the 911 operator.

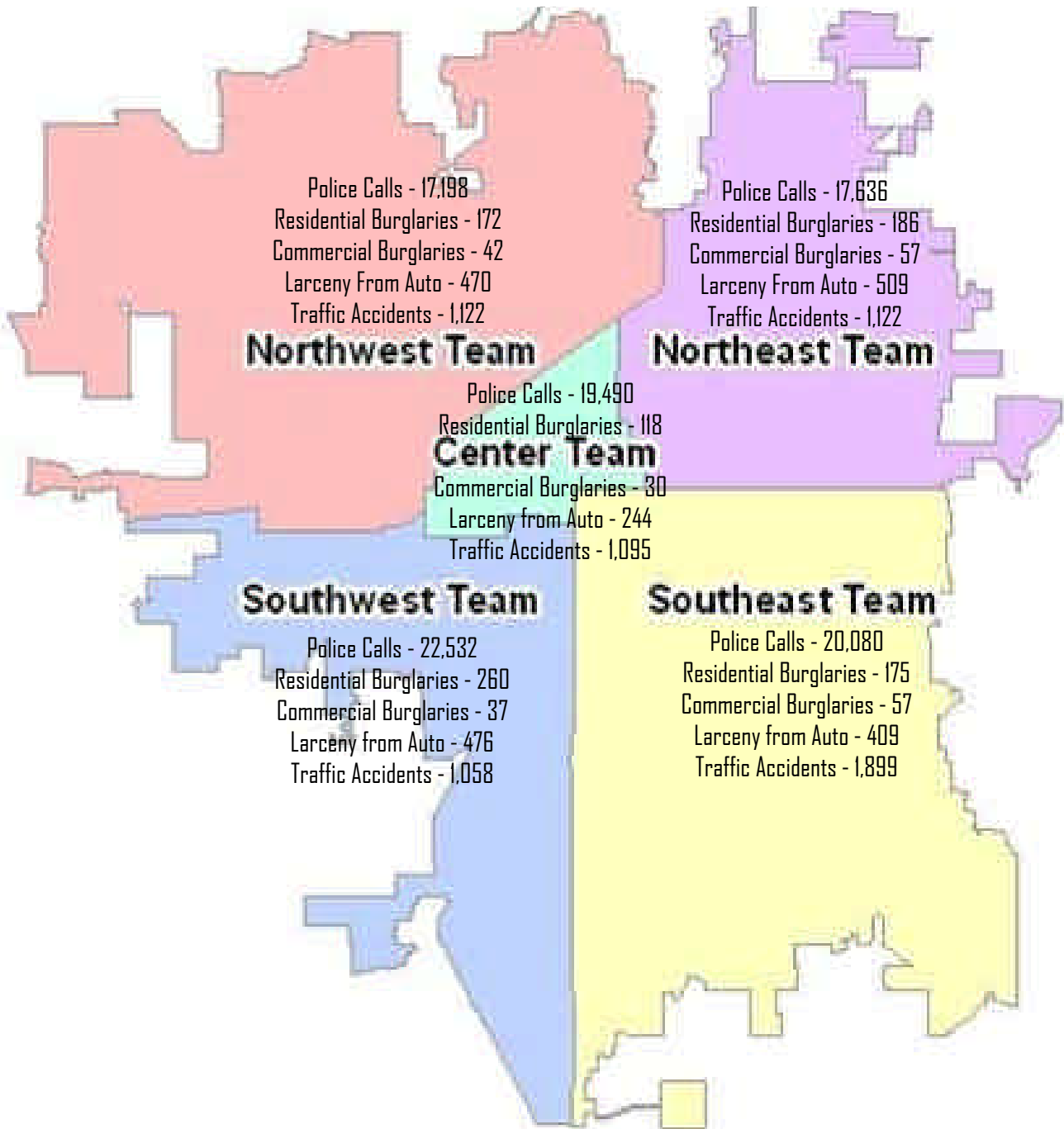
## **NEW E-MAIL CRIME ALERT SYSTEM IS AVAILABLE**

The Lincoln Police Department has had a long and successful relationship with **The Omega Group** and their crime data mapping systems. The most recent service added for your use is called **CrimeMapping.com**. CRIMEMAPPING states, *"This portal is dedicated to helping law enforcement agencies provide the public with valuable information about recent crime activity by neighborhood. Our goal is to assist police departments in reducing crime through a better informed citizenry."* Through the website you will:

- INVESTIGATE CRIME ACTIVITY BY TYPE, LOCATION OR TIME PERIOD.
- VIEW CRIME ACTIVITY AROUND A SCHOOL OR BUFFER NEAR AN ADDRESS.
- CAPTURE A SNAP SHOT OF ACTIVITY AND CREATE A REPORT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

We have already added a link to their site on the LPD public home page ([www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police)) or you can go directly to: [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com) and click on "Receive Crime Alerts!". On that website you can subscribe to receive crime updates for any area in the city of Lincoln that you wish. You will be asked to enter an e-mail address that your alerts will be sent to. Then you can enter an address (possibly your home or business) or general area of town that you want information on. Daily updates will be sent to your e-mail or you can check to see what occurred over the previous thirty day time frame.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES-between 1-1-2008 and 9-30-2008



**STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

Through September of 2008 there have been 98,204 police calls for service across the city. This is an 8.5% decrease compared to 2007. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 913, a 13.4% decrease from the previous year. As of the end of September, 2,195 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported— a 15.4% decline compared to last year. Commercial burglaries have reduced by 33.6% and even traffic accidents are down by 9.4% compared to this same time frame last year. There are several factors affecting the reduction of reported incidents one of which continues to be citizens' willingness to communicate with your police department. Calling the police directly has allowed officers to make timely responses and stop crimes in progress. Other call-in avenues such as Crime Stoppers have also been instrumental in making arrests and clearing these crimes. Please continue to communicate with your neighbors and the police— hopefully we'll continue this downward trend of crime in our city.

# The "EYE"

Lincoln Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
575 South 10th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

*Return Service Requested*



**402-475-3600**  
AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL  
CAN EARN YOU UP TO \$1000  
FOR TIPS ON VANDALISM OR CRIMES!  
[Submit a Tip Online](#)

Crime Stoppers is a very important program to Lincoln Police. It is a way citizens can provide information anonymously over the phone or on-line. When information leads to an arrest, recovery of property or clearance of a crime the caller is eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. The program structure is described as:

"Crime Stopper Programs are organized as a not for profit organization (Charity). A civilian community board of directors provides direction as to the financial and promotional activities of the program. The board of directors enhances the community involvement aspect, and its function is vital to the programs success.

The Crime Stoppers program is funded by private donations and fund raising. NO TAX DOLLARS are involved. The reward money paid out by the program is from the fund raising and donations from concerned citizens and businesses.

A community board of directors, made up of persons from throughout the area, meets on a monthly basis to evaluate arrests and to decide on the size of rewards to be paid, up to \$1,000. Rewards are then distributed in a private manner to the callers. Callers are eligible for rewards up to \$1,000, but, despite this, many callers choose not to collect their rewards."

(Lincoln/Lancaster County Crime Stoppers web-site)

In other words the program is civilian in nature and not administered by the police department. As a community, we all benefit from the information obtained.

With further cooperation by our local media you can see and hear current Crime Stoppers information at the following formats.

**On-line at:**

[www.lnkcrimestoppers.com](http://www.lnkcrimestoppers.com)

[www.myspace.com/lincolnpd](http://www.myspace.com/lincolnpd)

[www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police)

**On the Television at:**

Channel 10/11 KOLN/KGIN



**On the AM radio dial at:**

KLIN 1400



KFOR 1240



**On the FM radio dial at:**

The BLAZE KIBZ 104.1



KFRX 106.3



96KICKS KZKX 96.9



Froggy98 at 98.1

